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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:)
Richard P. Lamothe) Examiner: Kenneth E. Peterson
for: APPARATUS FOR SLITTING,) Group Art Unit: 3724
MERGING AND CUTTING A) Confirmation No.: 2177
CONTINUOUS PAPER WEB)
Serial No.: 10/087,559)
Filed: March 1, 2002) (Our Docket No.: 4341-0032-1)

Hartford, Connecticut - May 11, 2005

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated January 18, 2005, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this case in light of the following. If the present amendment does not render the case in a condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered as putting the claims in a better position for appeal.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 4.